

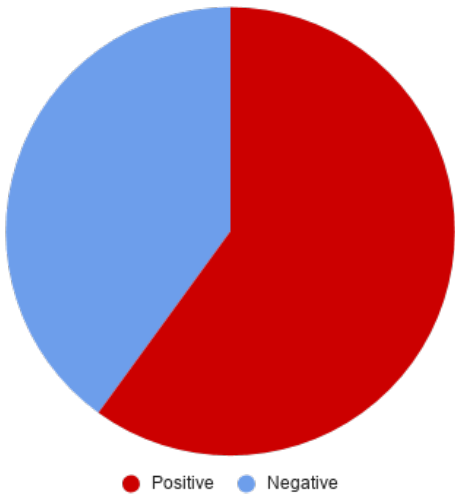
What’s Your Opinion?

Last week, we asked students if their experiences with virtual learning have been mostly positive or mostly negative.

Out of 20 responses, here are the results:

Mostly Positive -- 12

Mostly Negative -- 8



Next Week’s Poll:

Homecoming Court

Did you vote for Homecoming King and Queen this year?

Students can answer the poll and find previous poll results on The Herald’s website, theherald.home.blog, or on The Herald’s Instagram page, [@astate-herald](https://www.instagram.com/astate-herald). Website polls are posted on Wednesdays and Instagram polls are posted on Mondays.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald’s website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a junior music composition major from Hot Springs.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died due to complications of pancreatic cancer last Friday. She was the fourth-oldest serving U.S. Supreme Court Justice at 87 years old, and will be the first Jewish person and the first woman to lie in repose at the Supreme Court until she is buried. She died on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year; and six weeks before this year’s presidential election.

In wake of Ginsburg’s death, many celebrities and politicians have released statements giving their condolences. Thousands of people have flocked to the Supreme Court building to hold a vigil for Ginsburg.

However, many wishing to pay their respects are unaware of Jewish traditions. Ginsburg was born to Conservative Jewish parents and though she was non-observant, she spoke many times on how

How to Pay Respect to Ruth Bader Ginsburg

her heritage affected her views.

“The demand for justice runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jewish tradition,” she said in a speech at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004. Ginsburg added that on three walls of her office, she had paintings of the command from Deuteronomy: “Zedek, zedek, tirdof -- Justice, justice shall you pursue.”

Since Ginsburg was Jewish, it is important to use Jewish traditions to pay respects to her, rather than Christian ones. Here are some reminders, based on actions already seen at Ginsburg’s vigil and words from those mourning her elsewhere.

Don’t talk about heaven

Avoid using Christian-based phrases to pay tribute to Ginsburg, such as “heaven gained another angel” or “she’s in a better place.” Avoid singing Christian hymns like “Amazing Grace,” which was sung during the vigil last Friday. Even if it’s all you know, even if your heart is in the right place, it is still disrespectful to the memory of a Jewish woman to use Christian prayers, phrases and songs to mourn her.

A good phrase that has been going around is “may her memory be a revolution,” a play on the traditional Jewish phrase “may her memory be a blessing.” “Peace be upon her” is also acceptable. The Jewish concept of an afterlife is a bit more complicated, so it’s best to avoid reference to it altogether.

Stones versus flowers

If you are visiting the vigil at the Supreme Court or visiting Ginsburg’s grave, it is better to leave stones, rather

than flowers. According to Chabad, “In life, people may enjoy the beauty of their physical surroundings, but when they die, all of their material possessions and beauty are meaningless and left behind.” For this reason (and a few others, which are more focused on Jewish law), it is inappropriate to leave flowers on a Jewish grave.

Leaving a stone on a gravestone lets others know that the grave has been visited, and stones do not decay the way flowers do. They also show that the memory of the deceased continues to live on through whoever leaves a stone.

Another good way to leave an offering is to donate to a charity in Ginsburg’s name. Democratic donation-processing site ActBlue raised \$20 million during the first four hours after Ginsburg’s death.

Register to vote

This tradition is political, rather than religious, but is still important. Ginsburg’s death has raised a debate over whether her seat in the Supreme Court will be filled before or after the presidential election.

In 2016, Republicans argued that a vacant seat made by Justice Antonin Scalia’s death should not be filled until after that year’s presidential election, which was 9 months away at the time. This year, however, they are pushing to fill the seat as soon as possible, within 41 days.

Ginsburg’s dying wish was that she would “not be replaced until a new president is installed.” However, President Trump has announced that he plans to

have a replacement for Ginsburg picked as soon as Saturday. The appointment of a conservative Supreme Court Justice, which is what many political outlets are



Art by: Thinh Vu | Content Creator

predicting, will give Republicans six of the nine seats in the Supreme Court.

This controversy highlights why it is important to register to vote in this year’s presidential election. Whether you think Ginsburg should be replaced, the elections happening this semester will affect our country for the next four years. Voting for the next president, and voting down ballot for local elections, helps to bring about the future you want to see.

In honor of Ginsburg, who served on the Supreme Court for 27 years, we should follow the commandment she kept on the walls of her office -- “Justice, justice, you shall pursue.”

YouTube’s Copyright System Needs to Be Rewritten

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

Role-playing game Undertale celebrated its fifth anniversary last week with an orchestral performance of the game’s soundtrack. Many tuned in for the nostalgia, and to share their favorite memories of the game.

However, for a time after the video was posted, some viewers noticed that one song from the soundtrack, “Waterfall,” had been copyright claimed by a company called TuneCore, on behalf of a YouTube channel called Osirois.

According to Osirois, this claim was unintentional, and was later removed. Osirois does not own the rights to the song, but has produced a cover of it on their channel.

Also last week, YouTube channel Literally Satan had several videos of the popular song “Baka Mitai”, from the “Yakuza” video game series, copyright claimed. However, the company claiming their videos, Believe Music, was claiming the videos fraudulently, as they do not own the rights to “Baka Mitai.”

These are just recent cases in an

issue which has plagued YouTube for many years -- companies fraudulently copyrighting a user’s video for a song they do not own. Sometimes, this is purposeful, but sometimes YouTube’s Content ID algorithm will improperly identify a song as belonging to someone else, and will place a copyright strike on their behalf.

“We are well within the rights of fair use.”
- Danny Gonzalez

When this happens, your video can be blocked in certain countries, all ad revenue can be paid to the copyright “owner” instead of the person who made the video, or the video can be blocked altogether.

If Content ID claims your video, you can dispute it. In the dispute, you are allowed to state your case as to why you believe your video falls under Fair Use or why it should not be copyrighted. Then, the company that Content ID believes “owns” your video can decide whether to drop the claim or keep it up.

If they decide to keep it up, you can dispute again, but doing this puts the video at risk of being taken down altogether, and if this happens, your channel will get a copyright strike.

If a company places a copyright strike on your video, your video will be taken down from YouTube, and you will have three options: wait 90 days for the strike to expire, contact the company that claimed your video and ask them to retract their claim or submit a counter notification. The third option is a legal one, and submitting a counter notification requires you to include your complete address and full legal name.

A video on YouTube can only have one copyright strike on it at a time, but if your channel gets three copyright strikes, your account can be deleted, your videos will be removed, and you will be unable to create new channels.

The major issue with YouTube’s copyright system is that it places the power in the hands of the company making the claim. The original poster of the video is completely powerless in the copyright system.

In two cases, YouTubers have had to resort to outrageous methods to protect

their videos.

In 2018, Danny Gonzalez’s video on the Billion Surprise Toys videos was claimed by BST. They removed the claim after Gonzalez posted on his Twitter that he was “reviewing (his) legal options.”

“We are well within the rights of fair use and BST is totally abusing the system,” Gonzalez said.

In January, Ymfah released a video in which he described how to take advantage of the Content ID system: use a distribution company to automatically copyright videos using your own custom outro, then have Content ID claim your own videos so that you receive your own ad revenue. As he points out in the video, having only a small bit of copyrighted content in the video can cause your video to be claimed.

Sure, creators shouldn’t have their work stolen, and I understand that YouTube’s copyright system was put in place to prevent that sort of thing, but at this point it’s become more of a burden than a boon. When a system hurts creators so much that they need to resort to unorthodox methods to get around it, shouldn’t the system be rewritten with them in mind?

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